

the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization. This award recognizes efforts to promote agriculture literacy in the classroom, and I am immensely proud that Sonya has been selected from a nationwide group of nominees to receive this prestigious award.

As a mother of five daughters and past president of the Churchill County Farm Bureau, Sonya has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to education, volunteerism, and community service. For more than 30 years, she has given of her time by volunteering to educate Nevada's students about the importance of agriculture, as well as agriculture-related higher education and career opportunities that are available to them. Whether in a classroom, at a farm festival in Las Vegas, or at a community workshop, Sonya has helped countless Nevadans understand the critical role agriculture plays in our State and national heritage. Not only has she used creative methods in her educational efforts, but she also often reaches out to students in remote locations, including Indian reservations, and she has volunteered with children of mine workers as well. Her efforts were recognized in 2010 by the Nevada Agriculture Foundation, which named Sonya the Outstanding Nevada Ag in the Classroom Volunteer.

Sonya's commitment to educating Nevadans about agriculture is truly admirable. She has made an invaluable investment in the lives and futures of Nevada's students. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Sonya on this well-deserved recognition, and I thank her for her many efforts as a volunteer and educator.●

#### 2013 AROOSTOOK ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, I wish to commend David A. Harbison, Jr., and his company, Bison Pumps, for being named the 2013 Aroostook Entrepreneur of the Year. Bison Pumps, located in Houlton, ME, both designs and manufactures hand-powered water pumps. These impressive and elegant devices provide reliable access to well water without the need for any electricity.

The first Bison pump was born out of necessity during Maine's Great Ice Storm of 1998, which crippled parts of Maine for several weeks. Over half of our State lost power, some areas for more than 2 weeks. Like many Mainers faced with adversity, Mr. Harbison and his team of plumbers responded to disaster with resilience and innovation. They designed and built what would be the first Bison hand pump, which allowed people whose electric pumps were inoperable in the aftermath of the storm to access the water in their wells. Since 1998, this timely and resourceful design has gained international appeal and application.

Now a strong and growing business with 12 employees, Bison Pumps sells

its polished stainless steel products around the country and all over the world. From the woods of northern Maine to the hustle and bustle of Singapore, these pumps are making a difference by allowing people to access well water without electricity. Just recently, a ministry organization bought one of the pumps, which is now helping them provide much needed clean water to people in Haiti.

We have many great small businesses in Maine, and the 2013 Aroostook Entrepreneur of the Year Award winner, Mr. Harbison and Bison Pumps, is certainly one of them. Bison Pumps represents the bold, free-thinking spirit that defines the State of Maine. I am proud to join in recognizing their ingenuity, and I expect they will continue to impress us—both in Maine and around the world with their superb products.●

#### REMEMBERING VERNON AND MARIE NELSON

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, there are many things I admire about folks from my home State of Kansas but especially how Kansans carry on the traditions of previous generations. No tradition runs deeper in Kansas than the tradition of working on a family farm.

Across our Nation, 98 percent of our country's 2 million farms are family owned. For many Kansas children, growing up on a farm is a way of life. By working alongside their parents, grandparents, and neighbors, young people learn important life skills and values like hard work, personal responsibility, and perseverance.

Gary Nelson of Falun, KS learned many of these life skills on the farm by working alongside his parents, Vernon and Marie Nelson. The Nelson family farm has been in his family for 144 years. It was originally homesteaded by Gary's great-grandfather Lars Frederick Nelson, in 1869. Nineteen years ago, Gary's father Vernon passed away, leaving the management of the farm in his hands. In the years that followed, Gary took over the farm operations with the help of his mother. But just a few weeks ago, Marie passed away. The community of Falun lost two special people when Vernon and Marie passed away.

Both of Gary's parents came from a strong Swedish heritage and were well known in the small rural community of Falun in Saline County. They were married in 1952 and spent the next 42 years together, raising their son, managing the farm, and investing in the local community. A strong work ethic and an abiding care for others were defining attributes of both Vernon and Marie. They were also both skilled craftsmen—Vernon once made a walnut box that contained a bronze sculpture for President Ronald Reagan, and Marie had a love for quilting and once worked on a special quilt that was given to Nancy Reagan.

Vernon and Marie were also very proud of their son and came to visit

Gary while he was working as an intern for former Senator Bob Dole in the summer of 1983. One of their special memories was enjoying lunch together in the Senate dining room at the invitation of Senator Dole.

In small rural towns across Kansas, people work hard, take pride in their communities and care for one another. Vernon and Marie were two such people. Gary recently said this about his parents: "They are part of the fabric that is our community now and that of the future." Individuals like Vernon and Marie also make up the fabric of our country, and their contributions have made our Nation what it is today. Vernon and Marie lived each day to its fullest, and their devotion to those around them stands as an inspiration to us all.

I extend my heartfelt sympathies to Gary and the Nelson family and friends. I ask my colleagues and all Kansans to remember the Nelson family in your thoughts and prayers in the days ahead.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2397. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 8:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1092. An act to designate the air route traffic control center located in Nashua, New Hampshire, as the "Patricia Clark Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center".

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated: